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CHRONOLOGY OF INTERNATIONAL EVENTS AND DOCUMENTS

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Supplement to
THE WORLD TODAY

Published twice a month by the Royal Institute of International Affairs, Chatham House, St James's Square, London, S.W.1

Annual subscription 25s. Per copy 1s.

In the United States, the Chronology may be obtained from the Royal Institute of International Affairs, New York Publications Office, 542 Fifth Avenue, New York 19, N.Y. Annual subscription \$5.00; per copy 25 cents.

Volume VIII No. 1 19 December 1951—2 January 1952

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AUSTRIA. 29 Dec.—**Amnesty.** The Minister of Justice announced in a broadcast that all political prisoners had now been freed except 158 convicted of criminal offences.

BRITISH WEST AFRICA. 2 Jan.—**Nigeria.** Three persons were killed and three wounded when police were compelled to open fire in dispute concerning the boundary between Akure and Idanre.

BRITISH WEST INDIES. 22 Dec.—**Leeward Islands:** Elections. The first elections under adult suffrage took place. The Labour Party won all eight seats on the Legislative Council which entitled them to three seats on the Executive Council.

BULGARIA. 26 Dec.—A court in Sofia sentenced four men to death and six others to prison terms ranging from six to twenty years for criminal activities aimed at overthrowing the regime.

CANADA. 28 Dec.—**Economy.** Mr Howe, Minister of Trade and Commerce and of Defence Production, issued a survey of the Canadian economy. He said that Canada had passed through an extraordinary year which had demonstrated the flexibility and capacity of her economy to meet increased demands for defence production and to supply increased exports and more home consumer goods. Though prices had risen they had risen less towards the end of the year as the result of the Government's anti-inflationary action, and production had continued to rise at the same time. In 1951 the gross national product had increased about 6 per cent in terms of physical volume. Exports had risen by \$627 m. in the first ten months of 1951 and imports by \$907 m. The deficit was almost entirely with the United States and did not result in any basic weakness of Canada's foreign trade. The large capital inflow from the United States was almost enough to finance payments deficits while maintaining monetary reserves close to the previous year's level. Exports to the sterling area in the first ten months of 1951 were \$723 m. compared with \$558 m. in the same period of 1950.

29 Dec.—**North Atlantic Treaty.** Both Houses of Parliament approved the protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty providing for the accession of Greece and Turkey.

CHINA. 27 Dec.—Nationalist raid on Nanju Island (*see Formosa*).

31 Dec.—Reports reaching Hong Kong from Canton stated that on 30 December fourteen counter-revolutionaries had been sentenced to death, and 190 to varying prison terms; nineteen persons received suspended death sentences, and thirty-five were released on probation.

1 Jan.—**People's Courts.** It was learned that new regulations had been published in Peking according to which the district people's courts would be subject to the joint control of the superior court and the local People's Government Council, thus abolishing the principle of the separation of the executive and judiciary.

CONFERENCE ON A EUROPEAN ARMY. **30 Dec.**—After the conclusion of a four-day conference in Paris of the Foreign Ministers, Finance, and Defence Ministers of France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Italy, Luxembourg, and Federal Germany, a communiqué was issued which stated that the Ministers had agreed that the creation of a European defence community constituted a step towards the unification of Europe which remained an essential objective of their Governments. They had decided that the Assembly envisaged in the European defence community should be asked to make proposals to the six Governments, within six months of the treaty coming into force, for the creation of a European organization of a federal or confederal character which would replace, when the time came, the organization embodied in the treaty. An international conference would be called by the six Governments three months later to study the proposals. The six Governments would jointly take measures to facilitate the realization of these projects on the coming into force of the treaty.

The communiqué further stated that the Ministers had agreed that the institutions of the European defence community would include an executive authority on a collegiate basis, an Assembly, a Council of Ministers, and a court of justice. The principle of a common budget had been agreed on, but the details and method of the transformation of national budgets into a common defence budget had been left for further examination. Agreement had also been reached on most of the problems concerning the integration and composition of the defence forces. It had been decided that another meeting of Ministers would take place in January.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA. **22 Dec.**—**Government Changes.** It was announced that Dr Dolanski, head of the State planning commission, would succeed Rudolf Slansky (recently arrested) as Vice-Premier and co-ordinator of the economic ministries, and that Mr Pospíšil, Secretary-General of the People's Party, would succeed Alois Petr, the deceased Minister of Transport. Mr Pučík was appointed to replace Dr Dolanski as head of the planning commission.

Amnesty. Prague Radio announced that since 10 October 313 laymen had been amnestied by President Gottwald, and forty priests, accused of being disloyal, had been pardoned.

31 Dec.—A press despatch from Vienna stated that according to arrivals from Brno there had recently been fresh anti-Government demonstrations there by workers. The cause was understood to have been the Government's decision not to pay a Christmas bonus because the nationalized enterprises could not afford it. As in the demonstrations of 1 May against the reduction in basic wages, the factory militia had been used to disperse the demonstrators. Many arrests were made.

1 Jan.—President Gottwald stated in a New Year broadcast message that food imports which had risen from 13 per cent of total imports in 1937 to 29 per cent had to be paid for with industrial products and therefore the food situation could only be improved by higher industrial production. He admitted that 'discrimination and blockade by the

Czechoslovakia (continued)

American imperialists' had caused some difficulties, but he said they had also taught Czechs to learn to help themselves. He thanked the Soviet Union for its 'altruistic help'.

EGYPT. 19 Dec.—The British military authorities in Ismailia put out of bounds the road past the police H.Q. where British military vehicles had been ambushed on 17 December.

The engine of an army goods train was damaged by an explosion on the line near Kantara.

20 Dec.—Gen. Erskine, Commander of the British troops in Egypt, ordered that any civilian found carrying arms or explosives would be considered 'hostile'. An army spokesman said the order had been issued in view of the Egyptian Government's intention to legalize the carrying of arms and because of continuing attacks on troops.

A parade of fifty students took place in Cairo to mark the completion of their training as guerrillas for the Canal Zone. They were the first batch to be trained under the Government's scheme to control the liberation movement.

Five Egyptians, discovered digging up a water pipe near the filtration plant at Suez, were shot dead after they had ignored a challenge. Various other acts of sabotage were also discovered.

Gen. Erskine informed the Governor of Port Said that he would expect the Egyptian police to enforce a dusk-to-dawn curfew in certain dangerous areas of Ismailia from 21 December and that if the police failed in the task the British command reserved the right to make it effective by its own means.

The British authorities announced that compensation for houses demolished at Kafr Abdou on 8 December would be paid only to individuals and that they would bear no liability for the construction of any new housing estate to replace the destroyed village.

22 Dec.—Ibrahim Farag, acting Foreign Minister, declared that Egypt would not submit her dispute with Britain to the United Nations because the 1936 and 1899 agreements were 'dead and no longer a subject for argument'.

Scattered incidents continued in the Canal Zone, and a British diplomatic car was burned and looted on the Cairo-Suez road after its driver had been threatened and forced to stop.

23 Dec.—Gen. Erskine declared in a broadcast to the troops that the Egyptian decision to allow civilians to carry arms without licence could only be read as an incitement to attack the British and as legal cover to the 'liberation' units. He said such bands of armed civilians would be a menace to all law-abiding citizens in Egypt.

The Cabinet approved the dismissal of British officials from Egyptian Ministries and decided to pay them three months' salary and their fare home.

The railway line near Suez was damaged by an explosion.

24 Dec.—Two attacks were made on British vehicles in and outside Ismailia and a bomb exploded at the water filtration plant near Suez.

25 Dec.—It was announced that the King had appointed Hafiz Afifi Pasha to be Chief of the Royal Cabinet, and Abdel Fattah Amr Asha, the recently recalled Ambassador in London, to be Foreign Affairs Adviser to the Royal Cabinet during the period of his recall. Hafiz Afifi Pasha was Foreign Minister from 1928-9, Minister in London from 1932-4, and Ambassador to Britain from 1936-8.

The two Egyptian employees of the British Embassy who were arrested on 14 December and charged with inciting workers to return to the Canal Zone were each sentenced to one year's imprisonment and fined £100.

26 Dec.—Demonstrations of students took place in Cairo and Alexandria against the appointments of Hafiz Afifi Pasha and Abdel Fattah Amr Pasha whom they regarded as moderates who might advise a settlement with Britain. In Alexandria the police had to use tear gas to disperse the crowds; twelve policemen were injured by stoning and many arrests were made. A state of emergency was declared in both cities.

Gen. Erskine declared that if 'youth commandos' entered the Canal Zone to attack British troops he would be compelled to crush them. He appealed to all responsible people to stop such a criminal waste of youth.

Gen. Robertson, C.-in-C. Middle East Land Forces, flew to London.

27 Dec.—The authorities ordered the closing of secondary schools and colleges in Cairo after students had demonstrated for a second successive day against the appointments announced on 25 December. In Cairo nine police and seventeen students were reported to have been injured, and the police had to use tear gas and to fire in the air before order was restored.

Salah Ed-Din Pasha, Foreign Minister, who was in Italy, stated to the press in Rome that partisan activity in the Canal Zone was spontaneous, that the appointment of Hafiz Afifi Pasha as Chief of the Royal Cabinet was a natural one in view of his tact and diplomatic experience, and that Egypt would not take part in any Mediterranean defensive arrangements which included Israel.

28 Dec.—A British Services communiqué said that though sniping, bomb-throwing, and other minor incidents had increased at Tel-el-Kebir and Ismailia, there had been no significant change in the situation. Various claims in the Egyptian press of successful guerrilla action, including the destruction twice in three days of the Suez water filtration plant, were stated to be completely false. An army spokesman said that railway and water sabotage were continuing.

29 Dec.—The Egyptian police arrested a local terrorist leader in Ismailia. Crowds demonstrated in protest, and the man was later released on bail.

Shots were fired at the British military hospital at Tel-el-Kebir, and an attempt was made, but thwarted, to wreck a train at Qassassin.

30 Dec.—Further demonstrations of students throughout the country were reported and several more secondary schools were stated to have been closed.

Egypt (continued)

The *Journal d'Egypte* published an interview with Wahid Rifaat Bey, legal adviser to the Cabinet and to the Foreign Minister, in which he commented on the efforts by Nuri Pasha, Prime Minister of Iraq, to regulate not only Anglo-Egyptian relations but the relations of the Arab world with the western democracies. He said that according to published versions Nuri Pasha proposed a revival of the Arab League security pact in association with the Atlantic pact, based on the following conditions: British evacuation of Egypt and Iraq; the provision of arms and munitions to the Arab States; reinforcement of the 'international personality' of the Arab League; and removal of tension between Arab States and western States by friendship and mutual understanding. Rifaat Bey stated that the proposals warranted serious consideration by the Arab States and by Egypt's Foreign Minister.

31 Dec.—Gen. Robertson arrived back in the Canal Zone from London and immediately issued a statement which he said had the authority of the Prime Minister. He declared that the Government would press forward with their proposals for a Middle East Command in which they hoped Egypt would participate as a full and equal partner. Until its establishment the British would uphold their position in the Canal Zone and maintain the international waterway of the Canal, not for any reason of self-interest but as a contribution to the defence of the free world, and they would not be turned from their policy by either 'the passage of time or murderous episodes'.

The Communist-inspired newspaper, *Gumhour al Misri*, offered a reward of £E1,000 for the killing of Gen. Erskine and £E100 for the killing of each British officer.

Violent criticism of the appointment of Hafiz Afifi Pasha as Chief of the Royal Cabinet continued to be expressed in the left-wing press.

Indonesia. The acting Foreign Minister announced that Indonesia had recognized King Farouk as King of Egypt and the Sudan.

Nahas Pasha, Prime Minister, declared in Cairo that Egypt had not asked anyone to mediate and that her attitude remained unchanged.

1 Jan.—Egyptians opened fire on British positions in the curfew area of Ismailia in the early hours. Exchanges continued for three hours but caused no British casualties.

A British Note of protest against the offer of rewards for the killing of Gen. Erskine and other British officers by the *Gumhour al Misri* was delivered at the Foreign Office. It described the offer as 'incitement to murder'.

A British Embassy spokesman said that recent acts of intimidation against Egyptian members of the Embassy staff included a threat of death to any Egyptian not giving up his job which was sent in a letter signed 'Liberation Battalions'.

In a reply to Gen. Robertson, Nahas Pasha declared that Egypt was not worried by such threats and would meet force with force. He said the Suez Canal belonged to Egypt who alone had the right to safeguard freedom of navigation, and the presence of British troops could have no purpose other than self-interest.

2 Jan.—Azzam Pasha on the dispute with Britain (*see France*). Libyan statement *re* relations with Egypt and the Sudan (*see Libya*). Following the arrest by the Egyptian police on 1 January of a Cypriot grocer (a British subject), and his two Greek assistants, who had been repeatedly threatened against carrying on their connections with the British, the British authorities stopped the car in which they were being driven to Port Said for deportation, and, on their request, took them under British protection.

ORMOSA. **27 Dec.**—It was announced that Nationalist guerrillas had raided Nanju Island off the coast of Southern China on 7 December and inflicted 400 casualties.

31 Dec.—U.S. Aid. Gen. Chase, head of the U.S. military advisory group, issued a New Year statement promising greater aid to the Nationalists in 1952. He said the advisory group would be expanded and more equipment sent.

FRANCE. **20 Dec.—Tunisia.** M. Schuman, Foreign Minister, declared in a speech to the Council of the Republic that the French reply of 15 December to the Tunisian memorandum could not be described as a rejection of Tunisian claims. It had stated French acceptance of a representative system. The Government were in favour of reforms, but of negotiated, not imposed, reforms. 'One must have the courage,' he said, 'to envisage the possibility of suppressing the Grand Council, which has played no useful part for the last two years, and of creating new institutions.' He declared that it was essential to establish co-operation between all elements in Tunisia and that France would accept no discussion on Tunisia or Morocco with those not bound to her by treaty.

The special committee set up to inquire into events in France between 1933 and 1945 submitted the first eight volumes of evidence to the National Assembly.

21 Dec.—Gen. de Gaulle: European Unity. In a statement to the press Gen. de Gaulle listed as obstacles to the achievement of European unity the weakness of France; the attitude of nations such as Switzerland, Yugoslavia, and the Scandinavian countries; Russian pressure from within and without; American pressure; and British insularity. In connection with the last, he quoted Mr Churchill as saying to him during the war: 'If I have to choose between Roosevelt and you, I will always choose Roosevelt; if I have to choose between Europe and the open sea, I will always choose the open sea.' He then outlined his own scheme for achieving European unity through a confederation of states establishing among themselves a common federal power to which each member would delegate a part of its sovereignty, particularly in the economic, defence, and cultural spheres. For this to succeed he said France must be strong; Germany must be bound by institutional ties which removed any threat of domination and which must be the same for all members; and France and Germany must reach a prior understanding. The General strongly criticized the

France (continued)

Schuman Plan and other prospective forms of European organization.

26 Dec.—Finance Bill. The *rapporteur* of the Finance Committee opened the debate on the Finance Bill in the Assembly with an account of the Committee's proposals for administrative economies and the raising of revenue by loans instead of by the new taxes proposed by the Government. M. Mayer, Finance Minister, rejected the Committee's proposals as impracticable. He said the financial situation did not justify excessive optimism in the matter of loans. Moreover, taken as a whole, there was a gap of 386,000 m. francs between the Committee's proposals and those of the Government, and the Government would therefore stand by its demand for increased taxation.

The Cabinet later sent to the Finance Committee an amendment which emphasized the need to balance the Budget but did not oppose the principle of alternative forms of taxation.

28 Dec.—Council of Europe: European Unity. Speaking as a guest in a committee room of the French National Assembly, M. Spaak restated his reason for resigning the chairmanship of the Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe. He said that more than half of the delegates did not really want a united Europe and refused to face the results of British abstention. They had failed to take advantage of the historic occasion of the presence of the west German Chancellor and the French, Italian, and Belgian Foreign Ministers. They seemed unable to understand that Europe in its existing state could only live by American charity and in fear of Russia. After expressing regret for the British attitude, M. Spaak agreed that it was none the less necessary to proceed with unification in order to achieve the economic strength to provide both guns and butter, to prevent European countries from becoming mere U.S. satellites, and to solve the problem of German integration in Europe.

Finance Bill: Indo-China. During the debate on the military credits for the Associated States and overseas territories, M. Daladier, the former Prime Minister, expressed concern at the burden France had assumed in Indo-China, and said that the dispute should be brought before the United Nations, who should be asked to call an armistice, then a truce, and then to organize a plebiscite. M. Pleven, Prime Minister, said that in the opinion of Gen. de Lattre de Tassigny, provided China did not invade with 'volunteers', existing plans allowed for results in fifteen to eighteen months. He did not, however, completely reject the possibility of negotiation, and he expressed a desire to improve relations with China.

29 Dec.—M. Letourneau, Minister for the Associated States, said that if the Viet-Minh were free its members would have sought negotiation long before. A solution could only be found on the international plane. He concluded by expressing determination to end the conflict while ensuring the security of French nationals and the maintenance of the French Union.

The Assembly approved the military credits for Indo-China amounting to 326,000 m. francs by 510 votes to 109, only the Communists

opposing. It also voted defence expenditure for January and February amounting to 130,000 m. and in addition 100,000 m. francs for military construction during the year. Again only the Communists opposed, the vote being 521 to 100. (The expenditure was for two months only because the year's budget could not be drawn up until the amount of U.S. aid was known.)

About twenty-two workers and twenty-eight policemen were injured in a riot on the outskirts of Paris which started when police tried to interfere with a workers' meeting called to protest against Government proposals for reforming the social security system.

31 Dec.—Anglo-French Consular Convention. A convention, designed primarily to codify existing consular arrangements, was signed in Paris. It included the principles applicable in the event of war.

1 Jan.—Finance Bill. At the end of the debate on the Finance Bill M. Pleven put as a question of confidence the motion to debate the Government's text of the Bill. He emphasized that a balanced budget was the guarantee of a stable currency and in reply to those who suggested Government borrowing rather than increased taxation said that this would require a sustained policy of reform based on a stable majority ready to face unpopularity.

2 Jan.—Egypt. In a speech to the Anglo-American Press Association in Paris in which he discussed the background of the Anglo-Egyptian dispute, Azzam Pasha, Secretary of the Arab League, contended that the British attitude over the Suez Canal was founded on a fallacy. He claimed that during the last war the Canal which had not been used because it was too easy a target for aircraft had been guarded throughout by Egyptian troops. He also complained that though Egypt had never failed to be an ally of Britain, Britain had failed to be an ally of Egypt in the dispute against Israel.

GERMANY. 19 Dec.—Adoption of proposal to send a U.N. commission to Germany (*see United Nations, General Assembly—Political Committee*).

West Germany: All-German Elections. The Federal Government and the Opposition both warmly welcomed the U.N. political committee's decision to send a commission of inquiry to Germany.

20 Dec.—War Criminals. It was learnt that the British High Commissioner had protested to the Chancellor against a report in the bulletin of the Federal Government Information Office alleging that there had been irregularities in the trials of war criminals imprisoned at Werl. The Chancellor was understood to have assured him that the report did not represent the views of the Federal Government.

21 Dec.—Ruhr Industries. The Allied High Commission issued a series of documents on the future of the Ruhr industries and a letter addressed by the Commission to the Federal Chancellor which gave an assurance that after completion of the decartelization and deconcentration programme laid down in Law 27, the German coal and steel industries would not be subjected to restrictions, other than those specified in the Schuman Plan.

Germany (continued)

22 Dec.—**War Criminals.** The British authorities released forty-two German war criminals from Wewl Prison. They announced that the release was the result of a decision to include imprisonment before trial in the total time served by war criminals.

28 Dec.—**Export Controls.** As part of the campaign to prevent strategic materials from reaching Russia, the western Powers imposed controls on the export of twenty-one industrial products used in atomic plants and made production of nine of the items subject to the Military Security Board's permission.

31 Dec.—**Production.** Mr McCloy, U.S. High Commissioner, said in a broadcast from Berlin that the latest index of production in the Federal Republic had reached the remarkable figure of 148 per cent of that for 1936, and the production was entirely non-military. In west Berlin the corresponding figure was 51 per cent which was an increase of 34 per cent compared with 1949.

East Germany: All-German Elections. Herr Pieck, President of the Republic, repeated in a New Year message that the proposed inquiry by the United Nations into conditions for elections could not be accepted, and that elections could only take place when east and west Germans themselves were in agreement.

1 Jan.—**Berlin: Church Affairs.** Prior to leaving for Moscow to discuss with the Patriarch of the Russian Orthodox Church the question of ecumenical relationships, Dr Niemöller, head of the Evangelical Church in Hesse, had a talk in Berlin with Dr Dibelius, the Bishop of Berlin.

2 Jan.—**Berlin: Schuman Plan.** The Soviet-licensed news agency, A.D.N., issued the text of a letter sent to members of the Bundestag and Bundesrat in Bonn by Dr Wirth, Reich Chancellor in 1922, who was in east Berlin where he had had talks with east German leaders. In his letter he said that a decision on the Schuman Plan ought not to be taken before the German people as a whole had pronounced judgement on it.

West Germany: European Army. Professor Hallstein, State Secretary in the Foreign Ministry, speaking at a press conference in Bonn on the proposed European defence community, said that if the five other members in the community did not give up their separate representation in N.A.T.O. Germany could not be said to have equality of rights.

GREAT BRITAIN. 19 Dec.—Mr Churchill, Prime Minister, and Mr Eden, Foreign Secretary, arrived back in London from Paris.

20 Dec.—Anglo-Spanish payments agreement (*see Spain*).

Treaty with Sultanate of Muscat (*see Muscat*).

21 Dec.—**Sugar Agreement.** The Ministry of Food signed an eight-year multilateral agreement with Commonwealth sugar exporters.

Sweden. A new trade agreement with Sweden in the light of the new British restrictions on imports was signed in London.

Hungary. The B.B.C. announced that it had twice broadcast on 13 and 18 December a challenge to the Hungarian Government to

deny a report that eighty miners had recently been shot at the Tata coal mine in Hungary following the discovery of a go-slow 'plot'.

22 Dec.—Mr Churchill warned the nation in a party political broadcast that unpleasant measures would be introduced in January in pursuance of the Government's resolve to make the country solvent. He emphasized that Britain must rely on her own efforts, for 'if we cannot earn our own living by the intense exertions of our strength, our genius, and our craftsmanship, there will be no time to emigrate the redundant millions for whom no food is grown at home, and we have no assurance that anyone else is going to keep the British lion as a pet'.

Note to Persia (*see Persia*).

24 Dec.—**Libya.** The Foreign Office announced the creation of the new independent sovereign kingdom of Libya and the accession to its throne of El Sayed Mohammed Idris el Mahdi el Senussi who became King Idris I.

26 Dec.—Gen. Robertson, C.-in-C. Middle East Forces, arrived in London for consultations.

31 Dec.—Mr Churchill and Mr Eden left by sea for the United States.

Iraq. Nuri Pasha, Prime Minister of Iraq, arrived in London on an unofficial visit.

Anglo-French Consular Convention (*see France*).

2 Jan.—**Libya.** The Treasury announced that from 3 January Libya would be included in the sterling area for the purposes of the Exchange Control Act.

GREECE. **21 Dec.**—**U.S. Aid.** The chief of the E.C.A. mission in Athens announced the year's allotment of Marshall aid to Greece as \$182 m.

22 Dec.—**Constitution.** Parliament ratified the revised constitution by 132 votes to 8. The Greek Rally abstained on the ground that proper constitutional procedure was not observed. There were four main addenda to the 1911 constitution. They provided: (1) that certain categories of big farming estates be expropriated and distributed to landless peasants; (2) that the Queen should assume the royal power in the absence of the King from the Kingdom if no successor be of age; (3) that a parliamentary recess committee be established; (4) that civil servants and employees of legal entities be deprived of the right to strike, and ideologies be declared incompatible with the functions of civil servants.

1 Jan.—King Paul and his Ministers signed the new constitution.

HUNGARY. **21 Dec.**—**United States.** A Note was handed to the American Legation informing the United States that the crew of four of the U.S. aircraft forced down over Hungary on 19 November would be tried for 'violating Hungarian territory with criminal intentions'.

B.B.C. challenge to deny report of massacre of miners (*see Great Britain*).

Hungary (continued)

22 Dec.—The Hungarian radio broadcast a denial of the report that eighty miners had recently been shot at Tata.

U.S. protest to Moscow *re* detention of air crew in Hungary (*see U.S.S.R.*).

23 Dec.—United States. The four members of the U.S. aircraft were sentenced by a military court to a fine of 360,000 forints (almost \$30,000) each, or three months' imprisonment, for violating the Hungarian frontier. The court ordered the aircraft and its cargo to be confiscated.

The State Security Police announced the arrest of a group of 'American spies'.

27 Dec.—Yugoslavia. The Yugoslav Government delivered a Note protesting against the occupation by Hungarian troops of a Yugoslav islet on the Mura river. A withdrawal was demanded.

28 Dec.—United States. The Government announced that the U.S. Government had paid the fine of 360,000 forints for each of the four U.S. airmen and that the airmen had been expelled from Hungary that day.

U.S. ban on travel in Hungary and closing of Hungarian consulates (*see United States*).

1 Jan.—Forced Labour. Reports reaching London revealed that some fifteen battalions (about 10,000 men), apparently nominally part of the army, but in fact forced labour battalions, had been organized for construction work. The battalions were said to be composed of men aged from twenty to forty called up for two years but regarded as too unreliable politically for ordinary military service.

INDIA. **25 Dec.—French and Portuguese Territories.** Mr Nehru, Prime Minister, said at Belgaum (on the border of Goa) that if India had been silent about the future of French and Portuguese possessions in India it was from a desire to settle the matter peacefully, but he declared that foreign rule would soon be coming to an end. Goa, Pondicherry and Mahé were all parts of India, and 'we cannot tolerate foreign states in any part of the country'.

Pakistan Prime Minister on Kashmir (*see Pakistan*).

27 Dec.—In a reply to the Pakistan Prime Minister's demand that the Security Council take the Kashmir dispute into its own hands, Mr Nehru, Prime Minister, declared at Rajahmundry, Madras, that if the Pakistan Prime Minister or any State thought that anything could be imposed on India regarding Kashmir they were very much mistaken. He added: 'But we are in dead earnest about this business of Kashmir and will have a plebiscite there.'

INDO-CHINA. **25 Dec.**—Several battalions of Viet-Minh forces made a strong attack on Mount Bavi, about thirty-five miles west of Hanoi. French and Viet-Namese forces counter-attacked and threw them back across the Black River.

30 Dec.—The French High Command estimated Viet-Minh

Indo-China (continued)

casualties since 2 December in their Black River offensive at 10,000, including 4,000 killed. French losses were estimated at 250 killed and 500 wounded. An army spokesman confirmed reports that the Chinese were building up heavy forces along the Indo-Chinese frontier.

INDONESIA. 31 Dec.—Recognition of King Farouk as King of Egypt and the Sudan (*see Egypt*).

IRAQ. 25 Dec.—**Oil Agreement.** An agreement was signed between the Government and the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company's subsidiaries, the Rafidain Oil Company and the Khanaqin Oil Company, under which the Government purchased, at fair valuation, the Alwand refinery and distribution facilities in Iraq and obtained a half-share of export profits. It agreed that the Khanaqin Oil Company would be the Government's distribution agent until 1961. It would also operate the Alwand refinery until the proposed Government refinery at Baghdad should be erected and would operate the Baghdad refinery until 1961.

27 Dec.—A Supreme Court in Baghdad passed death sentences on two men for espionage on behalf of Israel.

30 Dec.—Report of Nuri Pasha's proposals for Middle East settlement (*see Egypt*).

31 Dec.—Nuri Pasha, Prime Minister, arrived in London on an unofficial visit.

IRELAND. 26 Dec.—Trade agreement with Switzerland (*see Switzerland*).

ISRAEL. 22 Dec.—**Oil.** The Government announced the formation of the Israel Fuel Corporation Ltd to take over the purchase of crude oil and the distribution in Israel of refined products and by-products. The new corporation would be owned as to one third by the General Federation of Labour (Histadruth), one third by free economy, and one third by the Government.

31 Dec.—Frontier incident (*see Jordan*).

ITALY. 19 Dec.—Postponement of discussion of Italy's admission to the United Nations (*see United Nations, Security Council*).

21 Dec.—**Peace Treaty Revision.** The Foreign Office announced that the Governments of Britain, France, the United States, Belgium, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Brazil, South Africa, Greece, and Nationalist China had officially acceded to Italy's request of 7 December for revision of the Italian peace treaty.

31 Dec.—**European Army.** On his return from the conference in Paris (*see p. 3*) Signor De Gasperi emphasized to the press the importance of having secured agreement on the point, first raised by Italy, that the assembly envisaged under European defence arrangements should prepare the way for a European federal or confederal organization. He spoke also of the unique character of the treaty under discussion, underlining that it would make war between European States,

particularly between France and Germany, impossible, and, in its promise of a federal Europe, would facilitate the solution of problems which were insoluble within national frontiers. He admitted that there were still serious difficulties to be overcome particularly with regard to the financing of the European Army.

JAPAN. 19 Dec.—Export-Import Bank credit (*see United States*).

25 Dec.—**Government Changes.** Mr Yoshida, Prime Minister, announced the replacement of three Cabinet Ministers and the reduction in status of two others.

31 Dec.—In a New Year message to the Japanese, the Prime Minister, Mr Yoshida, said that reconstruction would not be easy. Industrial output must be increased and international trade developed, with narrower territory, less raw materials, a war-ravaged industrial organization, few ocean-going vessels, and a bigger population than before the war. He said this warranted no pessimism, however, as the Japanese were a diligent people and oversea nations were becoming increasingly sympathetic.

Marshal Stalin's New Year message (*see U.S.S.R.*).

JORDAN. 20 Dec.—**United States: Point Four Agreement.** A Point Four Programme agreement, pursuant to the general U.S.-Jordan agreement of 27 February, was signed in Amman. It provided for the grant by the United States of wheat worth \$1 m. and the provision of technical assistance for economic development.

31 Dec.—**Israel.** Arab Legion H.Q. reported that on the night of 28-29 December an Israeli armed patrol had fired on two Arabs in the Arab area between Habla and Ras Attieh villages, causing their death. U.N. observers had been informed and an investigation requested.

KOREA. 19 Dec.—At the truce talks in Panmunjom each side protested against the list of prisoners of war submitted by the other. The U.N. delegates claimed that the Communists' list must be far from complete, because it contained only 11,559 names, whereas over 100,000 allied troops were missing. The Communists complained that the U.N. list was useless because the prisoners' names were in English and they were not identified by rank or unit. The U.N. delegates promised to supply a list in Chinese or Korean characters.

In the armistice sub-committee, the U.N. delegates declared that they would make no more concessions until the Communists agreed to a rotation of troops and to inspection behind the lines.

Ground fighting was confined to scattered encounters of small forces, mostly on the western front. U.N. attacks from the sea and air continued undiminished.

21 Dec.—Gen. Ridgway, U.N. Supreme Commander, Far East, sent a direct radio message to the Chinese and North Korean commanders, Gen. Peng Te-Huai and Gen. Kim Il Sung, requesting that International Red Cross delegates be allowed to visit Communist prisoner of war camps.

The U.N. delegation at the truce talks offered to withdraw U.N. forces from all islands formerly under Communist control off both coasts of North Korea. The offer was described by an allied spokesman as a major concession made in an effort to obtain a compromise.

The U.N. Command delivered a Note to the Communists stating that the information supplied by the Communists on allied prisoners of war was 'wholly unbelievable' and showed discrepancies which could not be reconciled with other information, some of which had been obtained previously from the Communists themselves. Examples of discrepancies were given.

U.N. aircraft concentrated their attacks on Communist railway communications.

22 Dec.—The U.N. delegation at Panmunjom proposed to the Communists an immediate exchange of seriously sick or wounded prisoners. They also, as a result of Communist complaints, invited a Communist delegation to go to South Korea and see for themselves that 37,500 men, whose names had been removed from the U.N. list of prisoners, were in fact loyal South Koreans who had been impressed into the Communist forces.

23 Dec.—The U.N. delegation accused the Communists of failing to account for more than 50,000 allied prisoners they had claimed in official broadcasts to have taken. The Communists asserted that many prisoners had died of wounds or illness, had been killed by allied aircraft, or had been released immediately at the front. The allies handed the Communists a list of their prisoners' names in both Chinese and Korean.

The Far East Air Force stated that 506 U.S. aircraft had been lost in the war and 1,293 U.S. airmen killed, missing, or wounded. Enemy casualties in men up to 20 December were estimated to be 184,800 and in aircraft damaged or destroyed, 1,051 including fifty-six bombers.

25 Dec.—The United Nations accused the Communists of having sent thousands of South Koreans to Manchuria to 're-educate' them and of then impressing them into the North Korean army against their will and sending them to the front line. The North Korean representative denied the charge but defended the re-education of prisoners and their dispatch to the front.

26 Dec.—Gen. Ridgway, U.N. Supreme Commander in Korea, was given authority by the U.S. Government to extend for another thirty days, if he saw fit, the thirty-day period for agreement on an armistice.

The Communists accounted for a further 726 allied prisoners of war, but said that 571 of them had died, 152 had escaped, and 3 had been released. A United Nations communiqué said that a report on 50,000 missing South Koreans and other basic information was necessary before detailed discussions on an exchange of prisoners could begin.

27 Dec.—The thirty-day period for agreement on an armistice expired.

28 Dec.—A United Nations communiqué stated that an analysis of information received from the Communists showed that 450 out of

Korea (continued)

585 U.N. soldiers known to have been in Communist rear prison camps had died.

The 8th Army estimated total enemy casualties to 17 December at 1,546,868. U.N. casualties up to the beginning of December were given as 109,459 excluding 212,544 casualties reported up to June 1951 by South Koreans fighting under U.N. command.

29 Dec.—The United Nations delegation made the following true proposals which they said were final. They withdrew their insistence on the right of aerial observation and their demands that there be a single supervising authority and that inspection teams be free to travel anywhere in Korea. They also offered to give up islands held behind the enemy lines and to allow the Communists to rebuild a limited number of airfields. They insisted on retaining a sound military defence position during an armistice and demanded: (1) a 'freeze' on military build-up which would, however, allow a limited rotation of troops; (2) restriction to civilian use of airfields rebuilt during a truce; (3) opening of all main road and railway lines to neutral observers.

In the prisoners of war sub-committee the Communists admitted that many of their records had been lost in fires and bombings. They promised an investigation.

Communist forces attacked on the western front near Korangpo and gained some ground.

30 Dec.—The Communists declared that the proposed limitation on the rebuilding of airfields was unacceptable.

Fighting continued at Korangpo. U.S. bombers attacked North Korean airfields and railway marshalling yards.

1 Jan.—The Far East Air Force claimed to have destroyed during December more than 4,300 enemy supply trucks and 32 MIG fighters with five more probably destroyed, bringing the total of Russian-made jets destroyed to 189. The United Nations lost thirty-five aircraft during the month.

2 Jan.—The U.N. delegation submitted a new plan in the prisoners of war sub-committee according to which there would be a man-for-man exchange of prisoners and civilians provided these were allowed to choose for themselves whether they wished to be returned. Under the scheme South Koreans who had been impressed into the Communist armies would be reclassified as prisoners, and Communists' prisoners remaining after all U.N. prisoners had been released would be exchanged on a man-for-man basis with interned civilians and displaced persons. All other displaced persons who wished to return would be allowed to do so, regardless of number. All war prisoners exchanged for civilians would be placed on parole not to bear arms against the side which released them. War prisoners who elected not to return would also be placed on parole not to fight again in the Korean war.

U.N. forces regained nearly all ground lost near Korangpo.

LIBYA. **20 Dec.**—Egyptian attempt to secure debate on Libya (*United Nations, General Assembly—Political Committee*).

24 Dec.—The new King Idris I (formerly the Emir Idris El Senussi) formally proclaimed the independence of Libya in a broadcast from Benghazi.

A new Government under Mohammed Bey Montasser, the Prime Minister, consisting of three Tripolitanians, two Cyrenaicans, and one Fezzani, was sworn in.

British announcement (*see Great Britain*).

2 Jan.—**Egypt.** It was learned that following the Government's acceptance of an Ambassador from King Farouk as 'King of Egypt and the Sudan' a statement had been issued that Libya did not wish to become involved in the dispute or in questions of protocol. It felt the utmost goodwill towards the peoples of both Egypt and the Sudan and hoped their relations would be settled according to the desires of each.

Inclusion in sterling area (*see Great Britain*).

MALAYA. **19 Dec.**—Mr Lyttelton, Colonial Secretary, left for the United Kingdom after the conclusion of his tour.

It was announced that the police had arrested as Communists several servants from the residences of the High Commissioner and Chief Secretary.

Rebels killed a Chinese special constable and wounded three other Chinese at Singei Siput in Perak.

21 Dec.—Rebels ambushed a police car in Perak, killing one policeman, wounding three others, and stealing a pay roll of \$10,000 (Malayan).

28 Dec.—Bandits killed two Chinese children and one special constable during an attack on an estate in Johore. A constable and a labourer were wounded.

MUSCAT (ARABIA). **20 Dec.**—**Great Britain.** A treaty of friendship, commerce, and navigation was signed at Muscat between the United Kingdom and the Sultanate of Muscat. It displaced the treaty of 1939 which was due to expire on 31 December.

NETHERLANDS. **19 Dec.**—Gen. Christiansen, commander of the German troops in the Netherlands during the occupation, was released after having served eight years of his twelve-year term of imprisonment.

NORWAY. **2 Jan.**—**Government Change.** It was announced that Mr Hauge, the Defence Minister, would resign on 4 January and would be succeeded by Mr Langhelle, the Minister of Commerce.

PAKISTAN. **25 Dec.**—**Kashmir.** Khawja Nazimuddin, Prime Minister, demanded in a speech at Lahore that, as it was clear that India was not prepared for any conciliation, the Security Council exercise its own powers and ask India forthwith to withdraw her forces from Kashmir and then hold a free plebiscite under U.N. supervision.

29 Dec.—**Sind Province.** To solve the province's constitutional deadlock, the Cabinet decided that Sind should come under the

Pakistan (continued)

Governor's direct rule in accordance with Section 92a of the Sind constitution.

PERSIA. 19 Dec.—**Elections.** It was learned that Mr Hadi Ashtari, who was appointed Governor-General of Tehran on 17 December, had resigned in protest against interference with the preliminaries of the election.

20 Dec.—Thirty-eight pro-Government deputies used the pretext of alleged insults in a speech on 18 December by the Opposition deputy, Mr Shushtari, to absent themselves from the Majlis pending a full apology. The resulting lack of a quorum prevented the Opposition leader, Mr Jemal Emami, from proposing a vote of censure on Dr Moussadek. Mr Emami declared that neither the Jackson nor the Stokes proposals for the oil industry were contrary to the principle of nationalization, and that Dr Moussadek should have accepted them in principle and then bargained for 60 per cent of the profits.

21 Dec.—Members of the terrorist group, Fedayan Islam, demonstrated in Tehran against the Government and the elections, and demanded the release of their leaders, Nawab Safavi and Khalil Thamesabi.

22 Dec.—**Great Britain.** A British Note was received in reply to the Persian Note to former oil customers (*see 11 December*). It stated that the British Government considered that the oil dispute, having been referred to the International Court, was *sub judice* and that in the absence of agreement with Persia it could not agree to the purchase of Persian oil by British nationals and did not recognize the Persian Government's legal right to dispose of the oil.

Petrol distribution workers began a strike because their wages had not been paid.

Dr Moussadek broadcast an appeal to Persians to subscribe to a national loan.

23 Dec.—Opposition deputies and newspaper editors who had taken refuge inside the Majlis building were protected by troops with fixed bayonets when a mob of Ayatullah Kashani's followers threatened them from outside for having 'insulted' their leader. The mob was eventually dispersed by the Speaker who promised to vindicate Kashani's honour.

27 Dec.—The Majlis was specially called to authorize payment of civil servants' salaries. The meeting ended in uproar but the Government secured approval to use one-twelfth of the Budget for the purpose.

During the session Opposition leaders presented a letter asking the President to convene a special session of the Majlis within a month at which a motion of impeachment would be proposed charging the Government with: 'breach of the laws'; depriving the people of freedom and security; disastrous economic policy; and disrespect of the Majlis.

It was announced that the Ambassadors in London, Paris, Rome, and Delhi had been recalled, together with twenty-three other diplomats, as a measure to save foreign currency.

30 Dec.—Four persons were reported killed and 106 injured in election riots.

A ban on travel abroad because of lack of foreign currency was announced.

1 Jan.—After strong criticism of Dr Moussadek's policy by Opposition leaders, the Majlis decided by a large majority to advance the date for the motion of censure against the Government from 26 January to 22 January.

Two representatives of the International Bank who had come to Persia to obtain information on the practical problems involved in a resumption of oil operations had an interview with Dr Moussadek.

POLAND. **27 Dec.**—It was learned that the district military court of Warsaw had sentenced to death three more members of the war-time Polish underground organization for having handed over lists of Polish Communists to the Gestapo on the orders of the Polish Cabinet in London. A fourth accused was sentenced to fifteen years' imprisonment.

PORtUGAL. **31 Dec.**—**Budget.** It was learned that the 1952 Budget had been approved by the Cabinet. Revenue was estimated at 4,748,500,000 escudos (about £60 m.) and ordinary expenditure, which included a 10 per cent increase in civil servants' salaries, at 4,636 m. escudos. Of the balance, 108 m. escudos would be applied to extraordinary expenditure which amounted to 1,330 m. escudos including 500 m. for national defence in fulfilment of N.A.T.O. obligations. A further 108 m. escudos for extraordinary expenditure was covered by Mint receipts, Marshall plan funds, loans, and the sale of securities.

RUMANIA. **20 Dec.**—**United States.** The U.S. chargé d'affaires presented a Note categorically rejecting the Rumanian charges of 11 December concerning the parachuting of U.S. spies and stating that the conclusion could not be avoided that the charges were fabricated for propaganda purposes.

22 Dec.—The Foreign Ministry commented on the U.S. Note of 20 December that it ignored the obvious facts and attempted to throw off the U.S. Government's responsibility for its aggressive step.

27 Dec.—*Tass* reported that a Rumanian firing squad had shot four men alleged to have been parachuted from a U.S. aircraft. A fifth man was stated to have killed himself by taking poison.

SOUTH AFRICA. **25 Dec.**—Forty-one Africans were killed and 500 injured in clashes between tribal and other factions on the outskirts of Johannesburg following the announcement of local election results.

31 Dec.—Dr Malan, Prime Minister, appealed in a broadcast for unity and tolerance between the two white races and in relations between the European and non-European peoples.

SPAIN. **20 Dec.**—**Great Britain.** An Anglo-Spanish sterling payments agreement, valid for two years, was signed in Madrid.

Spain (continued)

31 Dec.—**U.S. Aid.** Mr Porter, acting chief of Mutual Security Aid in Europe, said in Madrid that U.S. aid to Spain would begin within ninety days and would be both economic and military. It was designed to permit Spain to contribute to western defence. The economic aid would be used for mining, especially iron and coal; power production; roads and railways; and agriculture.

SUDAN. 20 Dec.—**Sudan Workers' Federation.** A conference of the Federation adopted at its closing session six motions, all pro-Communist in character, one of which supported Egyptian workers in their 'struggle against the Middle East pact' and urged them to establish unity with Sudanese workers by recognizing Sudan's right of self-determination.

27 Dec.—It was learned that a statement had been issued announcing the formation of a united *bloc* composed of the Workers' Federation, the 'Struggle Front' (the pro-Egyptian faction), and the non-British officials union, with the following aims: the termination of condominium rule; the immediate evacuation of British and Egyptian forces; and the establishment of a provisional Government representative of all parties which would administer the country for one year and organize elections for a Constituent Assembly.

The Workers' Federation announced their intention to start a series of three general strikes for higher wages on 20 January.

SWEDEN. 21 Dec.—Trade agreement with Britain (*see Great Britain*).

SWITZERLAND. 26 Dec.—**Ireland.** A trade agreement between Switzerland and the Irish Republic providing for an increase of exports on both sides was signed in Berne.

TUNISIA. 20 Dec.—Speech by M. Schuman (*see France*).

21 Dec.—A three-day strike was begun in protest against the French Government's attitude.

23 Dec.—M. Perillier, French Resident-General, speaking in Tunis, said that solutions existed which would reconcile the development of Tunisian national sentiment with the permanent and solid foundations of the French presence in Tunisia and with the defence of the supreme interest of France and of the French residents. He forecast 'a new confederal link between our two countries supplemented with all necessary guarantees'.

TURKEY. 19 Dec.—A Note in reply to the Soviet protest of 24 November against the proposed Middle East Command was presented in Moscow.

Mr Koprulu, Foreign Minister, stated in the National Assembly that Turkey would not be intimidated by Soviet Notes and he expressed the hope that Egypt would adopt a more realistic view of the Middle East Command. He emphasized that in the Government's view there was

connection between Turkey's adherence to N.A.T.O. and her participation in the Middle East Command. He said Turkey's attitude in the Anglo-Persian dispute was strictly neutral.

NITED NATIONS.

General Assembly

20 Dec.—Germany. The Assembly adopted by an identical vote the *ad hoc* Political Committee's resolution on Germany (*see 19 December*). Israel opposed on the ground that adequate guarantees against a resurgence of Nazism were not provided. The five Powers named to compose the commission were: Brazil, Iceland, the Netherlands, Pakistan, and Poland. The Polish delegate again declined to accept nomination.

Security Council. After nineteen ballots over a period of weeks, Greece was elected to replace Yugoslavia on the Security Council by 9 votes to 16. The alternative candidate, supported by the Communist bloc, was Byelorussia.

Trusteeship Council. El Salvador was elected to replace Argentina on the Trusteeship Council.

General Assembly—Political Committee

19 Dec.—Disarmament. The Committee adopted the revised Three-Power resolution by 44 votes to 5 (Soviet States) with 10 abstentions (including Argentina, India, Burma, and the Arab States excepting Iraq and the Lebanon). It rejected all the Soviet amendments and also the Polish and Egyptian amendments (*see 18 December*).

The resolution provided that a disarmament commission, containing representatives of the Security Council and Canada, should be set up to replace the existing Atomic Energy and Conventional Armaments Commission. It directed the commission to prepare proposals, for embodiment in a draft treaty, on the regulation and balanced reduction of all armaments according to certain guiding principles which called for: the progressive disclosure and verification on a continuing basis of all armed forces—including para-military, security, and police forces—and all armaments including atomic; a system of effective international inspection by an international control organ within the framework of the Security Council; the retention of the U.N. (Baruch) plan as the basis for discussion of atomic control, unless and until an equally effective plan should be submitted; a determination of the best methods for calculating restrictions on armaments. The commission was to make its first report in June 1952 and to convene a world conference when sufficient progress had been made. The Committee accepted an amendment restoring the title 'Disarmament Commission' originally suggested by the western Powers for the proposed commission.

Germany. The *ad hoc* committee adopted by 45 votes to 6 (Soviet States and Israel) with 8 abstentions (Afghanistan, Burma, India, Indonesia, Yemen, Sweden, Yugoslavia, and Argentina) the tripartite western resolution proposing that a commission of inquiry should hold simultaneous investigation in west and east Germany as to whether

General Assembly—Political Committee (continued) conditions existed for the holding of free elections. The commission was asked to report to the Secretary General not later than 1 September 1952 and to include recommendations regarding steps to be taken to bring about suitable conditions for the holding of elections. The Polish delegate announced that Poland would not sit on the commission.

U.S. Mutual Security Act. The Committee began a debate on a Soviet resolution condemning the U.S. Mutual Security Act as an 'aggressive act and interference in the internal affairs of other States' and recommending the U.S. Government to revoke it.

20 Dec.—Speeches in support of the Soviet resolution were made by the Polish and Byelorussian delegates. The Polish delegate claimed that the U.S. Mutual Security Act openly established a 'financial and organizational basis for sabotage and treason, for espionage and subversion'. Mr Mansfield (United States), in rebutting the charges, said that the intention of Congress in providing funds under the Act to be used at the President's discretion was to allow refugees from eastern Europe to take part in the defence of the North Atlantic community if they wished. He said that if formations were ever established they would be used only against aggression and for no other purpose.

Libya. An attempt was made by Egypt in the *ad hoc* committee to obtain priority of discussion for relevant reports on Libya and to have the U.N. Commissioner for Libya summoned to report on the 'terror suffered by the Libyan population under the provisional Government. Only Afghanistan supported Egypt, and the Egyptian delegate later decided not to press his request.

Indians in South Africa. Mr R. K. Nehru (India) placed before the *ad hoc* Committee a resolution urging the setting-up of a commission to work for a round table conference of India, Pakistan, and South Africa on the treatment of Indians in the Union. The resolution, which was supported by Burma, Iraq, Persia, and Indonesia, derived from an Assembly resolution passed on 2 December 1950 which required that a Three-Power commission should be set up to help through the appropriate negotiations in the event of failure to agree on a round table conference by the parties themselves. Mr Nehru said that the South African Group Areas Act was concerned to squeeze the Indians out of trade and trade was all they had left since the 'most elementary' political and social rights were denied them. Mr Jooste (South Africa) said South Africa agreed to a round table conference on the basis agreed upon by the Governments of India, Pakistan, and South Africa in February 1950, but he insisted that South Africa's racial policy was a matter of 'domestic jurisdiction' in which the United Nations had no right to interfere. He placed the onus for failure to hold a conference on India and emphasized that the Union Government had caused the Group Areas Act to come into operation only after negotiations for a conference had broken down.

21 Dec.—U.S. Mutual Security Act. The Committee rejected the Russian motion by 39 votes to 5 (Soviet States) with 11 abstentions (mainly Asian and Arab States).

2 Jan. — **Collective Measures.** The Political Committee opened a debate on a resolution tabled by the members of the Collective Measures Committee, excluding Burma, Egypt, and Mexico, which (1) approved the Collective Measures Committee's report; (2) recommended members to take further action to set aside military units for service with the United Nations; (3) recommended constitutional and legal measures to enable members to take part in collective U.N. action; (4) requested the Secretary-General to appoint the members of the panel of military experts recommended in the Acheson security plan (*see 7 October 1950*) adopted by the Assembly on 3 November 1950; (5) extended the work of the Collective Measures Committee for another year.

During the debate Mr Coulson (U.K.) said the proposals were no more than a practical expression of the voluntary principle. He made clear that in subscribing to them Britain was not committing herself to any security measures beyond her existing obligations. Mr Hood (Australia) emphasized that the proposed measures did not seek to detract from the powers of the Security Council but it had been shown that the Council could not always work and alternative security machinery was therefore necessary. The report was an attempt to outline all forms of possible sanctions against an aggressor and all forms of help to the victim. In his view its flexibility was one of its greatest merits. He considered that the United Nations should not undertake military or strategic planning in advance of actual situations as this would necessarily have to be directed against a potential enemy and would be either wasteful or dangerous. Mr Cohen (United States) said the lesson of Korea had shown that everyone had a stake in peace and that there was need for a more equitable sharing of the burden and sacrifice of deterring aggression. The Swedish delegate indicated the difficulties which the proposed system would raise for a neutral country.

General Assembly—Social and Humanitarian Committee

2 Jan. — **Refugees.** The Committee heard a statement from Dr Goedhart, the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, on the refugee problem as it would exist after the I.R.O. had finally wound up its activities. He estimated the number of remaining refugees at 1,500,000 including 300,000 ethnic Germans in Austria, and said the gravest obstacle to a solution of the problem was the stream of new refugees from eastern Europe arriving at a rate of more than 1,500 a month. A report by the study group set up in June by the High Commissioner was issued.

International Refugee Organization

31 Dec. — The official existence of the I.R.O. ended. (During its three and a half years' life it transferred oversea more than a million refugees and displaced persons, and repatriated nearly 73,000).

Security Council

19 Dec. — **Italy.** Discussion of Italy's admission to the United

United Nations (*continued*)

Nations was postponed indefinitely after Mr Vyshinsky (U.S.S.R.) had made it clear that the Soviet position was unchanged and he had formally proposed the admission *en bloc* of thirteen outstanding applicants.

21 Dec.—Kashmir. Dr Graham, the U.N. mediator, reported to the Council that he had failed to secure agreement between India and Pakistan on a plan to demilitarize Kashmir. The main points of disagreement concerned the number of troops to be left in Kashmir for security reasons and the question of admitting U.N. forces to maintain law and order during the withdrawal of Pakistan and Indian forces. India opposed the admission of U.N. forces in any guise, while Pakistan readily accepted their admission. Dr Graham recommended that demilitarization be completed by 15 July 1952.

UNITED STATES. 19 Dec.—Note to Russia on the Middle East Command (*see U.S.S.R.*)

U.S.S.R. Mr Acheson, Secretary of State, described the Russian announcement that two spies had been parachuted into Russia from U.S. plane as an 'obvious fabrication'.

Debate on Soviet charges against the Mutual Security Act (*see United Nations, General Assembly—Political Committee*).

Note to Russia *re* the Mutual Security Act (*see U.S.S.R.*).

European Army. Mr Acheson, Secretary of State, said at a press conference that the European Army had been discussed for a year without any idea that the British were going to join it, and it must therefore be accepted that their participation was not essential. He added that everybody might have hoped for another decision and he still hoped for British participation later.

U.S.S.R. Russia handed back to the United States at Bremerhaven two ice-breakers loaned to the Soviet Union during the war.

Japan. The Export-Import Bank announced that it had authorized short-term credit of \$40 m. to Japan to finance imports of raw cotton from the United States.

20 Dec.—Point Four agreement with Jordan (*see Jordan*).

Rejection of Rumanian allegations (*see Rumania*).

21 Dec.—Hungarian Note announcing trial of U.S. air crew (*see Hungary*).

Aid to Greece (*see Greece*).

22 Dec.—Protest to Moscow *re* detention of U.S. air crew in Hungary (*see U.S.S.R.*)

23 Dec.—Hungarian sentence on U.S. air crew (*see Hungary*).

26 Dec.—Mutual Security Act. Mr Harriman, Director of the Mutual Security Programme, announced a list of over 300 items to be embargoed or subject to strict export controls.

27 Dec.—New Rifle. After a demonstration of the new .300 rifle the Defence Department announced that the United States was firmly opposed to using a calibre smaller than .300.

28 Dec.—Hungary. After being informed that Hungary had released

the four U.S. airmen, Mr Acheson issued a statement in which he said that the fines for the airmen had been paid because the United States valued the welfare of the individual above everything, but they had been paid unwillingly. He protested that the refusal of the Hungarian authorities to allow U.S. officials to visit the airmen before their trial was contrary to the basic rules of international conduct, and he announced that in view of this refusal the U.S. Government would cease to validate the passports of U.S. citizens for travel in Hungary and that the Hungarian Consulates in Cleveland and New York had been ordered to close immediately.

30 Dec.—In a speech to the Jewish War Veterans' Organization in New York, Mr Acheson reviewed events in the past year and said that the effort to move toward unity in western Europe might prove to be the most important step taken during 1951, 'and 1952 can be a year of historic decision for Europe'. He said the job in Korea was far from done and some ground had been lost in the Near and Middle East where the crises in Egypt and Persia offered dangerous opportunities for exploitation by the Kremlin. There were also dangerous signs of further trouble from Communist aggression in Indo-China and Burma. He summed up by saying that 'we have had both gains and losses but we are better off than we were a year ago'.

Production. The Secretary of Commerce said that the United States had increased production in 1951 by about 8 per cent to the highest figure ever recorded. The gross national production totalled \$327,000 m. which was 15 per cent higher than in 1950: about half the increase represented higher prices and the rest the increase in volume.

31 Dec.—Promise of more aid to the Chinese Nationalists (*see Formosa*).

Statement on aid to Spain (*see Spain*).

2 Jan.—**Mutual Security Agency.** The Mutual Security Agency took over, with wider powers, the functions of the E.C.A.

RUGUAY. 22 Dec.—Constitutional Change. It was learned that as a result of a plebiscite on 16 December the presidency had been abolished and replaced by a council of nine on the lines of the Swiss Federal Council. The majority in favour of the change was about 9,000.

U.S.S.R. 19 Dec.—United States: Middle East Command. The United States replied to the Soviet protest of 24 November against the proposed Middle East Command in a Note which followed the same lines as the British reply of 18 December. The Note included a reminder of Mr Molotov's proposal of 25 November 1940 to the German Ambassador 'that the U.S.S.R. be enabled to establish a base for land and naval forces within the range of the Turkish Straits and that the area south of Batum and in the general direction of the Persian Gulf is recognized as the centre of the aspirations of the Soviet Union'. It added that 'in the light of the Soviet attitude towards the Middle East area since the end of World War II, the United States can only assume

U.S.S.R. (continued)

that the aims set forth by Mr Molotov in 1940 remain the policy of the Soviet Government'.

A Note from Turkey was also presented.

Espionage. Moscow Radio announced that two Russians who had been parachuted into Russia from an American aircraft had been shot for espionage.

United States. Russia handed over to the United States at Bremerhaven two ice-breakers loaned to the Soviet Union during the war.

Debate on Soviet resolution condemning the U.S. Mutual Security Act (*see United Nations, General Assembly—Political Committee*).

United States: Mutual Security Act. A Note from the United States was presented in reply to the Soviet Note of 21 November. It categorically rejected the allegations that the U.S. Mutual Security Act constituted interference in the internal affairs of the Soviet Union and stated that the provision of the Act to which the Soviet Government had referred was intended to provide assistance for victims of oppression to contribute to the defence of the North Atlantic area.

22 Dec.—United States. The U.S. chargé d'affaires delivered a protest to the Foreign Minister against the detention in Hungary of four U.S. airmen forced down by Russian fighters on 19 November. He asked the Soviet Government to use its influence to effect their release (*see also Hungary*).

28 Dec.—Mr Litvinov, Commissar for Foreign Affairs from 1930-39, died aged seventy-five.

1 Jan.—Japan. Moscow Radio broadcast a New Year message from Marshal Stalin to the Japanese people in which he expressed his deep sympathy for their sufferings under foreign occupation and his conviction that they would succeed in achieving independence.

YUGOSLAVIA. 21 Dec.—In a speech on the eve of the tenth anniversary of the People's Army, Marshal Tito dismissed as 'insulting' and 'nonsense' allegations in the western press that the Yugoslav forces were best fitted to guerrilla fighting. He asserted that they were a well-trained, disciplined, modern army fully capable of using heavy armaments and said that over 42,000 men had passed through military colleges. He warned the country of the danger of a Cominform fifth column.

27 Dec.—Protest to Hungary against occupation of island on the Mura river (*see Hungary*).

28 Dec.—Devaluation of Dinar. The Finance Minister announced that on 1 January the dinar would be devalued to a sixth of its existing rate which would fix its value at 2·96223 milligrams of fine gold instead of 17·7738 milligrams. The new rate was equivalent to 840 dinars to the pound sterling and 300 to the dollar.

29 Dec.—Budget. Mr Kidrich, President of the Economic Council, told the National Assembly that 23·4 per cent of the national income would be spent on defence, including the armaments industry, in 1952. The total figure was 210,000 m. dinars (about £250 m.) which was

about the same as in 1951. Mr Kidrich said he expected a 6 per cent deficit on the federal social plan but this would be counter-balanced by the over-fulfilment of the plan, which was a minimum one, in other directions, and by foreign loans, credits, and grants. He said Yugoslavia was grateful for foreign aid but she also had a certain moral right to it because she was exposed to more difficulties than any other European nation.

31 Dec.—Amnesty. The Ministry of the Interior began to release 3,048 prisoners pardoned under a decree of the National Praesidium.

1 Jan.— Marshal Tito emphasized in a New Year broadcast the need for resolute and united resolve to do everything short of war to stop aggression. He appealed for support for the Government's economic reforms and claimed that Yugoslavia had gained during 1951 'great moral and political success' and many new friends among progressive people. He said that things would be easier than in the past two or three years and that hopes of peace had improved.

2 Jan.—Bulgaria. It was learned that the regional court of Vranje, Serbia, had sentenced two men to death for espionage on behalf of Bulgaria. Twelve others received prison sentences ranging from two to twenty years.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

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| Jan. | 21 | Meeting of Foreign Ministers' deputies to discuss
Austrian peace treaty. |
| | 29 | Reassembly of British Parliament. |
| Feb. | 2 | North Atlantic Council Meeting, Lisbon. |